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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Charles Q. Zhan, et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,406  
Filed: November 19, 2003  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE  
DEFECT INDICATORS FOR A VALVE  
Group No.: 2863  
Examiner: Toan M. Le

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2004, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.